

Amendments To The Claims

Please cancel claims 9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-20, amend claims 1 and 10, and add claims 21-24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent-catheter arrangement comprising:

a catheter including an expandable balloon having a first end with a first fully expandable section, a second end with a second fully expandable section and a section of reduced expandability in comparison with said first and second fully expandable sections, said section of reduced expandability being provided between said first and second ends; and

[[a]] an essentially tubular stent disposed on said expandable balloon, said stent including a liquid impermeable cover,

said stent being dimensioned and configured to extend over said section of reduced expandability and portions of said first and second fully expandable sections,

said balloon and said stent being configured and arranged to expand said stent to form first and second expanded fixing portions and a throttle portion coupled to said first and second expanded fixing portions by first and second tapering portions, respectively, said throttle portion of said stent having a smaller outer radial width than said first and second expanded fixing portions when said balloon is fully expanded so that said throttle portion is radially spaced from an interior wall of a vessel in which said stent is to be installed.

2. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said cover is a foil or a coating.

3. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 2, wherein said foil or said coating is made from body-tolerated material.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 2, wherein said foil or said coating consists of biological material, of polymer material, of metallic material, ceramic material or elastomer material.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said section of ~~said balloon of~~ ~~said~~ reduced expandability is formed of stiffened balloon material.

11.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein said section of said

balloon of said reduced expandability is formed by a stiffening element applied to expandable material of said balloon.

14.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said section of said balloon of said reduced expandability is produced by reducing the expandability of balloon material from said section during balloon production.

17.-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The stent-catheter arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the foil or the coating comprises of poly-tetra-fluoro-ethylene.

22. (New) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the stiffening element is integrated into the balloon material.

23. (New) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the stiffening element is applied to the balloon material by a secondary process.

24. (New) The stent-catheter arrangement according to Claim 13, wherein the secondary process is an adhesive bonding process.